

COMMENT OF
THE DAY

A Sound Reply

THE one and only regrettable feature of President Eisenhower's rejection of Marshal Bulganin's offer of a treaty of friendship and co-operation is that the Russians gain a new opportunity for mischief-making. It is appropriate to stress this at the outset because the "personal letter" to the American President was not really intended to be any more personal than a Radio Moscow broadcast or a press statement at a conference. In fact, by making it so, the Russians succeeded in making the contents more intriguing.

There is no doubt that sooner or later the Russians will exploit the President's decision by reminding the gullible that "America does not want peace with the Russians." But the assertion will be permissible only if the qualification is added that America does not want peace on Moscow's airy and insubstantial terms. And in a masterly, lucid and extremely reasonable reply President Eisenhower sets out his reasons why the proposal is unacceptable and what America considers the best way of bringing about a more valid entente. The statement was frank and direct and probably the most unemotional that any American has made to the Russians since the beginning of the cold war.

BUT if rejection of the Bulganin peace pact was regrettable, it was only incidentally so, for rejection was also unavoidable. There should be no fear that the West is throwing away chances of settling differences with the Russians, though probably many will feel this as they did when the Russians threatened a rupture of contacts on the signing of the Paris treaties last year. To have entertained this proposal seriously would have been the sheerest of follies.

Quite apart from the fact that America never regarded it much more than a cute (or crude) diplomatic manoeuvre, the friendship pact would have had three disturbing effects: (1) It would tend to isolate America from its allies at a time when the need for harmonious co-operation between them has never been more important; (2) it might suggest United States recognition of the status quo in Europe and thus imply acceptance of the existing boundaries of the Iron Curtain, including the division of Germany; (3) it would encourage a false and complacent sense of security throughout Western Europe leading possibly to a relaxation of effort by NATO and therefore a weakening of Western defence in Europe.

THESE are three valid reasons why the President could not have consented to the idea and it is pleasing to see that the Foreign Office has been so prompt in supporting his attitude. The plain utility of a series of treaties to guarantee friendship (which is guaranteed in the form of a declaration, anyway, as the President points out, in the United Nations Charter) without an accompanying "change of spirit" should be obvious enough.

But the more important point the President made was that there was yet no certainty that Russia could be trusted to honour its side of the bargain. And it is impossible to deny the stark truth of that statement. So he asks for assurances—deeds not words—and if Russia cares to pursue the idea, it might make out a more valid case for a treaty of this kind. But until East-West problems are overcome and a measure of mutual trust is restored it is quite pointless to dabble about with high-sounding, certainly misleading and probably hypocritical phrases proclaiming either implicitly or explicitly "peace in our time."

Panic Follows Fire At Church Supper

ELEVEN DEAD,
SCORES ARE
INJURED

Baltimore, Maryland, Jan. 29. At least eleven persons were killed and scores injured tonight when fire and panic swept through a church oyster roast supper in suburban Brooklyn Park Hall.

The charred bodies of eleven adults were taken from the debris and sent to the Baltimore City Morgue. They were burned beyond recognition. One of the adults was reported to be a soldier.

Police and firemen still were searching the ankle-deep debris in the burned buildings late tonight for other possible victims. The wives of two Baltimore City policemen were missing, but it was believed they were safe in the crowd milling about the scene.

The fire was caused by an explosion of a stove at the supper, which was sponsored by an organization of the St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church. In the ensuing panic, scores were trampled. Some 1,100 persons were attending the supper.

Ambulances and fire-fighting equipment were rushed to the scene from Baltimore City and from surrounding communities.

Thrown Out Of Windows

The fire broke out about 5 p.m. and it was almost three hours later before it could be brought under control. Brooklyn Park is a wooded suburban area just south of Baltimore. It has a population of about 6,500.

So wild was the panic during the height of the fire that people were "throwing each other out of windows," according to a cook who escaped.

South Baltimore General Hospital, which received the most casualties, in its first report said it had taken in 85 injured, ten of them critically, and one unidentified man who was dead on arrival.

University Hospital, Mercy Hospital and the Church Home and Hospital all reported taking in casualties. The Washington, D.C. Red Cross rushed 200 pints of blood and 100 units of serum albumin, a blood derivative used to combat shock, to the scene under police escort.—United Press.

New York Hotel Blaze

New York, Jan. 28. A fire broke out in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel for the second time in two months today. The City Fire Commissioner charged that hotel officials endangered the Waldorf's guests, some of them among the nation's most prominent citizens, by failing to report the blaze.

The Fire Commissioner, Edward Cavanagh, said a woman pedestrian reported the fire after she saw smoke billowing up from the roof. A man also sounded an alarm, he said.

Crazed Horse
Disrupts
Air Traffic

Sydney, Jan. 29. A crazed horse ran wild at Mascot Airport here today, disrupting air traffic for five hours.

International and domestic airlines cleared the field, waiting for the runways to be cleared, while the horse dashed madly about the airfield. Airport officials called out all available crash and fire trucks in an unsuccessful attempt to trap the crazed animal. The chase was abandoned at nightfall, but motorized crews patrolled runways to keep the horse away from landing planes. Incoming pilots were offered alternate landing fields but all elected to take the chance of meeting the horse on the runways. The horse finally wandered away during the night.—United Press.

Officials Relieved
Of Their Posts

London, Jan. 29. A Soviet broadcast tonight announced that six top Government officials of the Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic have been "released" from their posts.—United Press.

Ship Blacklisted

Damascus, Jan. 29. The Swedish freighter Blue Ocean was blacklisted by the government today. The vessel was accused of loading war materials for Israel, which Syria has now blacklisted. A total of 125 ships including six Swedish vessels.—United Press.

Trawlers Rescue
Nine Seamen

Aberdeen, Jan. 29. Two British trawlers rescued nine seamen from a German motor ship today as their crippled vessel sank in a pounding gale. The British ships raced to the 404-ton freighter Gertrud after spotting her distress signals off the northeast coast of Scotland. The German vessel, carrying coal from Scotland to Norway, foundered in the heavy seas and the nine-man crew jumped into the icy waters shortly before the trawlers arrived on the scene. The Gertrud went down shortly afterward.—United Press.

Minister Resigns

Rome, Jan. 29. Signor Silvio Gava, Minister of the Treasury, was reported tonight to have submitted his resignation to the government in protest against its rising expenditures.—Reuter.

EISENHOWER-EDEN TALKS

Wide Range Of Subjects To Be Opened Today

Mollet's
Fate To Be
Decided
Tomorrow

Paris, Jan. 29. Premier-designate Guy Mollet announced tonight that he will present himself before the National Assembly for investiture at 2 p.m. GMT on Tuesday.

M. Mollet said he had completed the list of his ministers and secretaries of state, which will not be published before Tuesday.

He indicated that his government consists of 13 full Cabinet ministers, including himself, and 21 secretaries of state (junior ministers not in the Cabinet).

There will be two Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs, one of whom will have charge of relations with Morocco and Tunisia, M. Mollet disclosed.

A Secretary of State at the Ministry of the Interior will be responsible for liaison with the Minister resident in Algeria, and one of three Secretaries of State for Defence will have charge of military questions relating to Algeria, he added.

Socialist Minister

Sources close to M. Mollet said the Secretary of State in charge of relations with Morocco and Tunisia would be M. Alan Savary, Socialist. The other Secretary of State at the Foreign Office would be M. Maurice Faure, a Radical known for his "European" views.

The Secretary of State for Defence specially concerned with Algeria, according to the same source, will be M. Max Lejeune, Socialist.

The Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs will be "overlaid" over eight secretaries of state in charge respectively of the budget, public works, transport, agriculture, reconstruction, the post office and the merchant navy.

Will Shun Reds

M. Mollet, who seemed certain tonight to be voted into the premiership by the National Assembly, will lay great stress on the need for Franco remaining faithful in spirit and in letter to her obligations under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

M. Mollet, who started drafting his investiture speech today, was determined, officials close to him said, not to make any concessions to the Communist viewpoint on the Atlantic Treaty. "M. Mollet would much prefer not to be invested as Premier than to solicit the support of the Communist votes in the Assembly by making an ambiguous declaration about France's position in regard to NATO," one of his close advisers said tonight.—Reuter.

ROWDIES BREAK
UP MEETING

Valletta, Malta, Jan. 29. Club-swinging police rushed to the defence of Nationalist Party speakers who were attacked today by supporters of the Labour Party.

The police beat back a jeering crowd that included two Labour Members of Parliament.

The speakers were pelted for two hours with bits of iron, stones, eggs and fruit. They were pounded upon by some members of the audience while leaving the speakers' platform and took refuge in a nearby house.

The crowd smashed the windshields of their cars and the public address system, forcing them to cancel later meetings.—United Press.

NATIONALIST LEADER FLEES COUNTRY

Tunis, Jan. 29. There was no confirmation of this report in Algiers, French troops were ordered to leave the city and the Nationalist leader fled the country.—Reuter.

SEEK A JOINT
POLICY

Washington, Jan. 30. President Eisenhower and Sir Anthony Eden will open at a luncheon meeting here today a three-day "summit" conference designed to formulate a joint policy on Middle East problems and co-ordinate United States and British measures to counter Communist thrusts in Europe, Asia and Africa.

Since this meeting was arranged in early December its urgency and importance have been substantially heightened by:

Deterioration in the Arab-Israeli situation, signs of an approaching crisis over the Chinese islands of Quemoy and Matsu, intensified Soviet efforts to stir up anti-Western feeling in South Asia, step up their penetration of the Middle East, isolate the United States from its allies—particularly Britain—and catch up, if not pass, the United States lead in the development of intercontinental bombers and guided missiles capable of delivering atomic and hydrogen bombs.

On the eve of the conference, officials of both the United States and Britain acknowledged that there were differences over methods though not over objectives in the Middle and Far Eastern policies of the two countries.

They were optimistic about the chances of the two leaders reaching an agreement on the Arab-Israeli question designed to prevent either side from playing off Britain and the United States against each other, to deter aggression in the Arab-Israeli area and to "put teeth" into the three-power declaration of 1950.

This declaration provides for "immediate action" by the United States, Britain and France, either within or outside the United Nations, if a violation of the Arab-Israeli armistice is threatened.

President Eisenhower and Sir Anthony will consider ways and means to implement the declaration if there is a major aggression in the Arab-Israeli area.

FIRM LINE NEEDED

The view here is that if the great powers demonstrate their will to enforce the 1950 declaration, and take a firm united line, this, along with other measures to be considered at this conference, will give greater security to the area and create an atmosphere in which all parties concerned can work towards a final and peaceful settlement of a long standing Arab-Israeli dispute.

But the President and the Prime Minister are not expected to make public either the kind of peace settlement they would like to see, or the diplomatic procedures through which the two sides may be brought together.

In this highly sensitive field involving the honour of nations long bitter opponents to each other, the United States and Britain are expected to pursue the kind of highly secret diplomatic procedures which led to the successful settlement of the long standing Italy-Yugoslav dispute over Trieste in 1954.

Officials were less optimistic about the chances of the United States and Britain aligning their views on the Saudi-Arabian problem. This relates to the use by Saudi Arabia of vast oil revenues from United States oil companies to foment anti-Western agitation throughout the Middle East in opposition to the Baghdad treaty organization of Britain, and the nation of the northern tier confronting the Soviet Union's southern borders.

A COMPLICATION

It is further complicated by a dispute between Britain and Saudi Arabia over the ownership of the Buraimi oasis, which Saudi Arabia is threatening to bring before the United Nations, if the Eden-Eisenhower talks do not produce satisfactory proposals for its settlement.

At present the United States appears to be reluctant to exercise as much influence upon Saudi Arabia as Britain would like.

There are also some here that United States involvement in the dispute might upset oil concession agreements in this and other parts of the world.

The President and the Prime Minister will exchange views on the future activities of the Baghdad pact organization, which the United States has so far refused to join, although it was formed at the suggestion of the Eisenhower administration and has always had its moral support.

They will also have to co-ordinate their separate programmes for giving military aid, economic assistance to the Middle East—particularly in view of recent Soviet efforts to penetrate the area by producing programmes of its own to "aid" the Middle East.

THE FAR EAST

Even greater differences of method characterize the Far Eastern policy of the two countries.

Britain is reluctant to see the United States become involved in hostilities with Communist China over the comparatively unimportant offshore islands of Quemoy and Matsu, though the United States is committed to defend them if they are attacked as part of aggression against the Chinese Nationalists on Formosa, who have powerful political supporters in the President's own Republican Party.

The United States is reluctant to see the British Government, which is also subjected to strong political pressures on Far Eastern questions, start reducing its emergency aid to the Chinese Nationalists, a time when the Chinese are in the United States view, intrinsically blocking American efforts to negotiate in Geneva a settlement on the return of United States citizens and other wider questions.

CHINA AND UN

President Eisenhower will probably be reluctant even to discuss another question Sir Anthony may wish to bring up. This is the eventual admission of representatives of the Chinese Communist regime, recognized by Britain, but not by the United States as the government of China to the United Nations. Even the suggestion that the Eisenhower administration was considering such a possibility could have the effect, in the highly explosive political atmosphere of this presidential election year, of splitting the President's Republican Party and immensely complicating his task either of winning the election or of choosing his own successor if he decided not to run again.—Reuter.

BOMB EXPLODES

Nichols, Jan. 29. A bomb exploded tonight near a British military patrol car in Lhasa, outside a cabinet. The bomb caused some damage but there were no casualties.—France Press.

Riff Rebels Routed

Rabat, Jan. 29. More than 40 rebels were killed in a violent clash in the Riff area between a battalion of the French Foreign Legion and a band of some 300 rebels. It was announced here tonight. The announcement said the Foreign Legion lost 18 men killed in the engagement, which took place near Talmest village yesterday. Among the Legion losses were one officer killed, eight Legionnaires were wounded. The rebels, who used automatic arms, also engaged in hand-to-hand fighting with the French troops. The battle, which was over extremely difficult ground some four miles northeast of Talmest, continued until nightfall when the rebels broke off the fighting, carrying away some of their dead and wounded.—France Press.

BERSERK MAN WIPES
OUT FAMILY

New York, Jan. 28. A New York State road inspector went berserk in his home today and wiped out six members of his family, including his invalid mother, with a .12 gauge pump shotgun. Then he committed suicide.

The victims were William Bauer, 48, trustee of the First Methodist Church in Parsippany; his wife, Alice, 43; a daughter, Elizabeth, 5; a son, Peter, 18 months; his mother, Ann, 84; and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Mr and Mrs Edward Neuber.

The police chief, Leo Dorzi, said Bauer went berserk "for no apparent reason." The house was strewn with empty shotgun cartridges, he said.

The body of Bauer's wife was found in a hallway between a bedroom and a bathroom. The bodies of the two children were sprawled in the dinette. Mr and Mrs Neuber were sitting in the living room, cuddled with each other.

Bauer's invalid mother, who was to have been taken to the nursing home here yesterday, was lying across her bed. She had been shot in the chest.

Bauer, an inspector of road materials and described as a stalwart member of the Methodist congregation, fired a shell into his own head. He was decapitated.—United Press.

MOB FIRED ON

Bombay, Jan. 29. Police opened fire on a group of people who threw stones at them tonight in central Bombay, wounding two of them.

Fifteen people were taken into custody.

This is the first major incident here since last Monday when the city returned to normal after the Indian government's announcement that the city would be placed under central government administration.—Reuter.

ACCIDENT
ABOARD HK
TROOPSHIP

London, Jan. 29. When the troopship Empire Fowey docked at Southampton tonight she was short of two passengers who embarked at Hongkong.

Sergeant Daniel Young, 34 of the 14th Field Regiment, RA, joined the ship for the home-ward journey with his wife, Kathleen and their two children, Lorna, 10, and Andrew 6.

While the ship was in the Indian Ocean Lorna had a fall and fractured her skull. She was landed at Aden and taken to an RAF hospital. Her mother went ashore and stayed with her, and Sergeant Young landed at Southampton tonight with only Andrew.

By cable and letter Sergeant Young has now heard that Lorna's condition is improving, but she is still very ill. Sergeant Young and Andrew travel to Worcester tomorrow to stay with relatives.

The Empire Fowey brought home nearly 1,400 services men and over 200 wives and children from the Far East.—China Mail Special.

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LAST 2 DAYS



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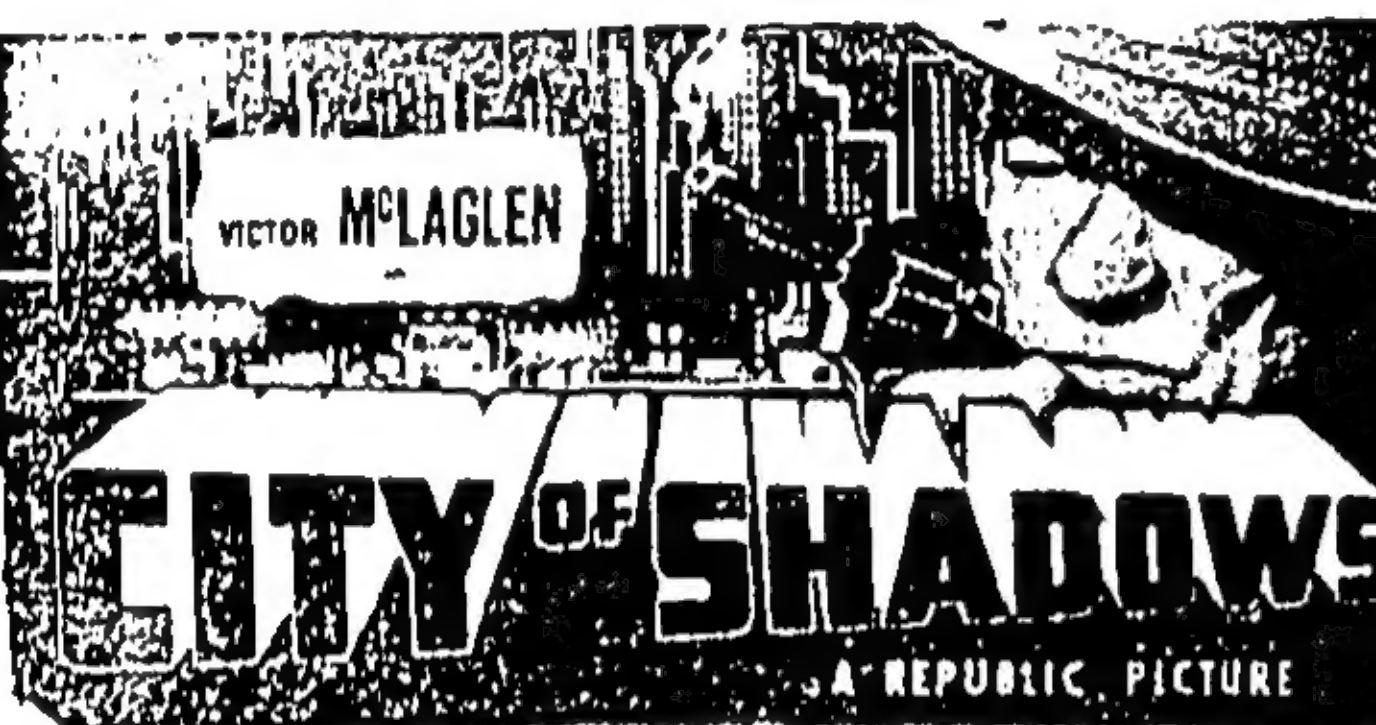


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NEXT CHANGE



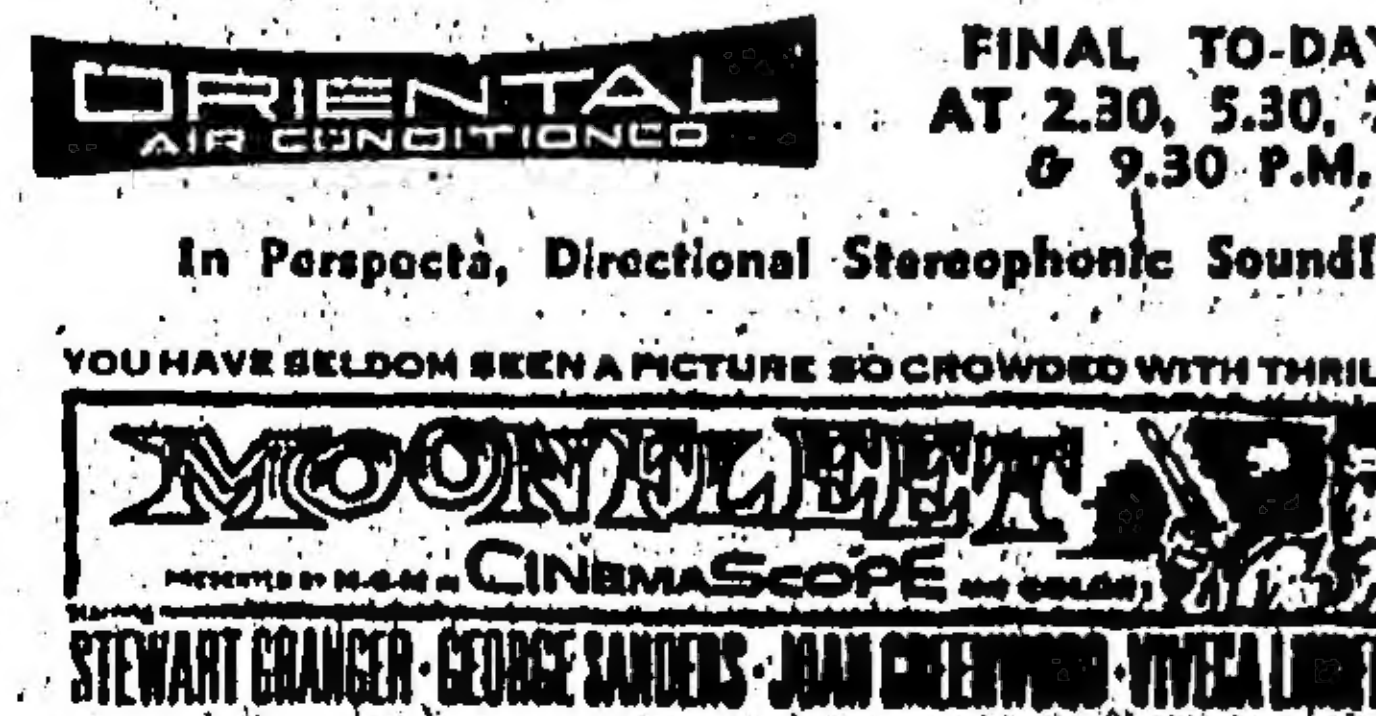
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WARSAW PACT DELEGATES SNEAK BACK HOME

Prague, Jan. 29.

Communist political and military leaders began dispersing unobtrusively today after the first publicly reported meeting here of the executive body of the eight-nation Warsaw Treaty.

Of the senior delegates Mr Molotov, Soviet Foreign Minister, was among the first to leave early today, with the Defence Minister, Marshal G. K. Zhukov.

The Polish and Rumanian delegations headed by their ministers also set off for home. Western observers here said the inconspicuousness of their departure, unannounced until long after they had left, contrasted markedly with the blaze of publicity which surrounded part of their deliberations during the two-day session of the Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee here. These observers said this highly organized publicity campaign seemed to make it clear that one aim of the meeting, coinciding with the Anglo-American talks in Washington, was to provide a platform for propaganda intended for foreign consumption.

Another Objective

It seemed a reasonable assumption, these observers said, that another objective was probably to give the military chiefs an opportunity to talk, both inside and outside the conference hall, about co-ordination in staff organization and other measures in the various Eastern armies.

The main public business was the enlistment of the projected new East German army into a unified military command of forces of the Soviet Union, Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Rumania and Czechoslovakia.

The immediate value of this move, aimed at countering the formation of West Germany's NATO army, was more of a propaganda than of a military nature, in the opinion of these observers.

They said it sharpened the division of Germany and emphasized the Soviet point of view, reiterated in Mr Molotov's speech, that unification could come only through agreement between both East and West Germany.

Repetitions

The committee also used the occasion to make a new move on atomic weapons, proposing that neither the East nor West German armies should be equipped with these.

The meeting also brought repetitions of Soviet proposals, including that for a European collective security system. Mr Molotov also called for "extensive co-ordination of efforts to increase the defence capability of the Warsaw Treaty states." But little light was thrown on this or other military aspects of the conference.

They revealed only the projected formation in Moscow of a permanent commission to make recommendations on foreign policy questions and a joint secretariat of all member states.

Solved Questions

Both Marshal A. I. Konev, Soviet Commander-in-Chief of the joint command, and another Soviet officer General A. S. Antonov, Secretary-General of the Consultative Committee, addressed the meeting but no details of their speeches were released.

The communique merely said: "The committee solved organizational questions concerned with the armed forces."

Mr Molotov had some hard words to say about "hazardous efforts of imperialist-aggressive

circles" and the Communist Chinese observer, Marshal Nieh Jung-chen, sharply accused the U.S. of indulging in "threats of war," blackmail and lies. Both scored propaganda points over the "brink of war" foreign policy attributed to Mr John Foster Dulles, US Secretary of State in a recent American magazine article.

Chief Aim

But observers said that nothing emerging from the meeting indicated any major hardening of Soviet policy towards the West. In fact the theme of "peaceful co-existence" was cited by Mr Molotov as the chief aim.

The meeting rather indicated that the Communists wanted to show the world that they intended to meet strength with strength, but at the same time were ready still to talk about ways of easing the international situation, these observers said.—Reuter.

Label Offended Americans

Prague, Jan. 29.
The United States Government has informed the exporter of a famous Moselle wine that he need no longer put trousers on the boys on his labels.

The wine — Kröner Nektarisch — ran into trouble last year when American customs authorities insisted that the label was not quite nice and barred the wine from import.

So a girl apprentice was put to work making trousers on the label. Three naked boys shown frolicking in a wine cellar on bottles destined for the United States. Now she can give up the task. — China Mail Special.

Boy Crosses River On High Wire

Vienne, Jan. 29.
Watched by an enormous crowd but hardly bating an eyelid, a 13-year-old high wire walker today crossed over the River Rhone—200 metres—on a suspended cable from Vienne to Sainte Colombe, and then crossed back over again.

The young boy, Armand Eliezo, is the sole supporter of his family since his father—a professional high wire walker—suffered a fall preventing him from ever performing his balancing feats again.—France-Press.

PIGLETS EAT 131 FOWLS

Ermelo, Transvaal, Jan. 29.
Nineteen six-month-old piglets on the farm of Mr N. J. Brylenback, near Ermelo, escaped from their enclosure into a chicken run and ate 131 fowls.

When discovered next morning covered with blood and feathers, they had eaten so much they could hardly walk.—China Mail.



The Sudan's application for Arab League membership was unanimously accepted by the League Council, at a meeting held recently under the Yemenite Charge d'Affaires. For the first time since the founding of the League 10 years ago, the meeting was held in public. Picture shows Mubarak Zarouk, Sudanese Minister of Foreign Affairs, giving a speech of thanks on behalf of the Sudan to other League members, in Cairo.—Express Photo.

US CONTRADICTION POLICIES Senator Wants An Investigation

Washington, Jan. 29.
Senator George Smathers called today for a Senate investigation of what he termed the "contradictory policies" of President Eisenhower's State and Defence Departments.

He said that while the Secretary of State, Mr John Foster Dulles, "charged thrice bravely to the brink of war," the Defence Secretary, Mr Charles Wilson, was "lopping billions off the national defence programme."

Senator Smathers added his protest to growing Democratic criticism of the administration's defence policies in a weekly newsletter to his constituents.

Investigation

Senators Stuart Symington and Henry Jackson have led the attacks, charging that military expenditures are being reduced in an effort to balance the budget.

Senator Smathers said: "In my judgment, the contradictory policies of the two departments warrant investigation by a Senate Committee."

Meanwhile, Representative James van Zandt said Russia may beat the United States in the vital race to perfect an intercontinental ballistic missile—sometimes called the "ultimate weapon."

"We're not too sure what Russia has and what she does not have," he said in a television interview with Representatives F. Edward Hebert and Hale Boggs "But we're taking no chances and we're going to put forth every possible effort to build that missile at the earliest possible date."

Give Credit

Mr van Zandt, a member of the Joint Congressional Atomic Energy Committee, said the only way to win the missile race was to "double our efforts by making more money available" for research and development.

He said one missile, armed with an atomic or hydrogen

warhead, could cover 5,000 miles in a matter of minutes and completely destroy a city the size of New York or New Orleans without warning. Mr van Zandt said: "We're giving Russia credit for having this type of missile and it's possible that she may fire it first."—United Press.

Mao Calls On Party To Advance Knowledge

Paris, Jan. 29.
Mr Mao Tse-tung, Chairman of the People's Republic of China, today called on all members of the Chinese Communist Party to learn scientific knowledge diligently and to unite with intellectuals outside of the party so as to strive to catch up quickly with the advanced level of the world's sciences, the New China news agency reported.

Mr Mao made his statement on the last day of a conference convened by the Central Committee of the Communist Party, at which Mr Chou En-lai, Chinese Foreign Minister and Secretary-General of the Committee, made a report on the question of intellectuals.

Speakers considered hereafter the party must strengthen its leadership over the intellectuals, fully mobilize them and bring into play their present capabilities, help them further to remould themselves and rapidly to expand their ranks and raise their professional skill, the agency added.—France-Press.

QUEEN'S & ALHAMBRA

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PHOTOGRAPHS by our Staff Photographers

- Lutheran Tea Party
- Colony Squash Final
- Indian National Day
- Hong Kong Bisley at Kal Tak
- R.H.K.D.F. Prize-Giving
- St. John Ambulance Ball
- U.N. Children Health Contest
- Boxing at Southern Playground
- St. Francis D'Assisi Church Dinner
- Football Dinner at Gloucester Hotel
- H.E. Governor Presents Police Review Cup
- H.E. and Lady Grantham Visit Po Leung Kok
- Australian Day Reception at Hong Kong Club
- Departure of Austrian Soccer Team
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US Will Continue With Diplomacy In Middle East

BAO DAI SUED BY PILOTS

Cannes, Jan. 29. EX-VIETNAM Emperor Bao Dai lost an airline along with his kingdom but its employees are still suing him for back pay.

Thirty ex-employees of his personal airline claim Dai owes them \$170,000 (60,000,000 francs) in back wages. Bao Dai says Vietnam Government should pay.

The case, which is being unfolded before a Cannes court, is complicated by the fact that last summer two disgruntled pilots took matters into their own hands and walked off with 22,000,000 francs (\$82,500) intended for the company payroll.

Five Planes

The disputed airline, which consisted of five planes, was called "The Imperial Aerial Transport Service" and was under Dai's control until last May when Vietnamese Premier Ngo Dinh Diem took over its direction.

When Diem nationalised the line, he sent 15 of its employees to France on one-third of their original salary, with the promise that the rest would be sent to them monthly.

The other 15 remained in Vietnam and were kept in the dark on their status.

Last June two of the airline's pilots arrived at the Vietnam post and announced that they had come on Dai's orders. Using his name, they withdrew the company's funds—22,000,000 francs.

Disappeared

They said they were taking a 20-minute flight to a nearby lake where they said they were to meet another representative of Dai.

Instead of a 20-minute flight, they headed for Hongkong where they disappeared.

The Cannes court has issued warrants for their arrest.—United Press.

The Hongkong Police this morning denied all knowledge of the two men.

NO INTENTION OF JOINING ANY ARMS RACE

Washington, Jan. 29.

The United States will continue for the time being to stress diplomacy in the Middle East rather than join in any arms race, administration officials said today.

These officials declined to comment directly on a joint plea by former President Harry Truman and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt that America "should now provide" Israel with defensive arms.

Outer Mongolia Applies To ECAFE

Bangalore, Jan. 29.

Outer Mongolia has applied for membership of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE). It was learned here today. Its application is likely to come up before ECAFE's 12th session beginning here on February 2.

Some here expressed doubts about the acceptance of Outer Mongolia's application as the country they say falls outside the geographical scope of ECAFE as defined by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, its parent organ.

The areas covered by ECAFE's activities now extend to Japan, Afghanistan, Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Ceylon, China, Malaya, Hongkong, India, Indonesia, Korea, Laos, Nepal, North Borneo, Pakistan, Philippines, Sarawak, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Could Be Amended

The terms of reference regarding the geographical scope, however, can be amended by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations as was done two years ago to include Afghanistan, these circles added.

ECAFE now has 22 members including Australia, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States. It also has on its rolls two associated members.—Reuter.

But they said the United States will seek in the next few months some way to settle the explosive Israeli-Arab dispute.

The search for new peace moves will be an important part of the meetings beginning tomorrow at the White House between President Eisenhower and British Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden.

Mrs. Roosevelt, widow of the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt, issued a statement in New York yesterday urging that Israel be provided with US arms to balance those that Egypt is getting from the Soviet bloc.

Guarantee

Mr. Truman also signed the statement and Mrs. Roosevelt said that Walter P. Reuther, AFL-CIO vice-president, concurred with the plea.

It suggested that the United States offer both Israel and the Arab States a treaty guaranteeing their borders against aggression.

Israel has asked the United States for \$50,000,000 worth of defensive arms. At the time the request was submitted, the administration promised it would receive "sympathetic consideration."

But the Israeli arms bid was shelved when Israel attacked a Syrian outpost on December 11—an action that drew an unanimous UN Security Council condemnation.

Diplomats believe that the time may be ripe for a new peace effort during the next few months. They said both sides have much to gain by settling the dispute before the already great danger of war is further increased by an arms race.

Chances Good

There is considerable optimism in administration quarters that Egypt is anxious for a settlement.

World Bank president Eugene Black is in Cairo to talk over a World Bank loan to Egypt to build the Aswan Dam.

Some officials believe chances are very good that Egypt and the bank will agree to loan terms very soon.

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles has believed on three occasions that the Arabs were ready to negotiate a settlement. Each time he expressed his opinion in letters to Israeli authorities.

Informants said the letters were followed by the Israeli reply at Kibya, Gaza, and against Syria last December.

Moscow Backing

Besides the political implications, the Eisenhower administration is put on the spot by the Israeli arms request for other reasons.

For one thing, Moscow is backing the Arabs with Communist arms. If the United States gives Israel any arms, officials believe this might only serve to further alienate the Arabs from the Western world.—United Press.

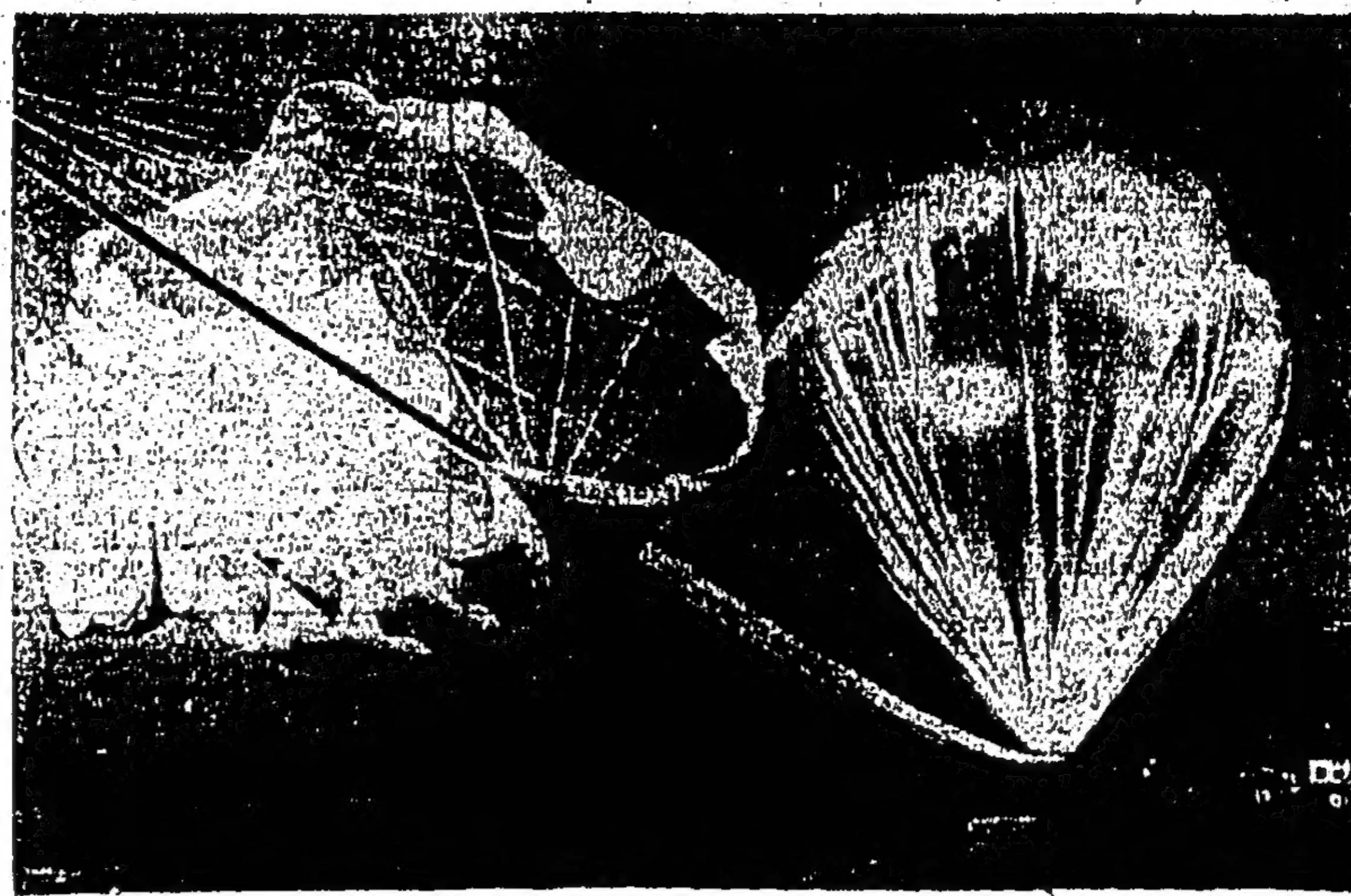
DIPLOMAT'S PACKAGES IMPOUNDED

Bagdad, Jan. 29.

The Iraqi customs authorities today impounded a number of packages among the luggage carried by the returning Egyptian Charge d'Affaires in Bagdad, Ibrahim Hilmi.

The diplomat arrived here aboard a passenger flight. As he collected his diplomatic bag from the plane's captain, he also asked for a number of packages which he said contained copies of Egyptian constitution and other documents.

Iraqi customs officials paged one sealed diplomatic folder and an envelope and suggested that Hilmi submit the other packages for inspection. The returned and were impounded.—United Press.



The Czechoslovakian Government has issued a protest against the flying of US scientific balloons over certain areas in Europe, claiming they have had to cancel a number of air flights because of the danger created by the balloons. Pictured are several of the balloons being raised at a German airstrip. They are launched by special units of the US Army in Europe taking part in research experiments donated to the Geo-Physical year 1957-8. The balloons, 75 ft in diameter, float up to an altitude of 25 miles. They carry meteorological instruments which supply information regarding conditions in stratosphere-heights.—Express Photo.

Yugoslav-Soviet Party Relations

Belgrade, Jan. 29.

YUGOSLAVIA may receive an invitation to send a delegation to the forthcoming congress of the Soviet Communist Party and thus re-establish a party contact severed with Yugoslavia's expulsion from the Cominform in 1948, diplomatic sources said here today.

This subject was believed to have been already discussed in top level Yugoslav-Soviet contacts in the last few days. On Tuesday, Mr. Nikolai Pribludny, Soviet Ambassador, was, at his own request, received by President Tito immediately on his return from Moscow while on Friday, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev received the Yugoslav Ambassador in Moscow Mr. Dobrovic Vidic.

Party Secretary

It was noted that Mr. Khrushchev was described in Yugoslav press reports of the latter meeting as First Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party.

Since the Cominform quarrel was ended Soviet policy has called for a restoration of party-to-party ties in addition to normal governmental co-operation. But so far the Yugoslav Communist Party or League of Communists as it is officially called, has refused to re-establish contact.

Mr. Khrushchev on his arrival here with Marshal Nikita Bulginin last May appealed for party-to-party relations only to be rebuffed by President Tito.

The Yugoslav line in the past few years has been for the Communist Party not to have foreign relations. Instead the government's mass organization, the Socialist Alliance, maintains ties with left wing parties in Western Europe and Asia.

Compromise

A Soviet invitation would it was felt be considered with great care by Yugoslav leaders who would weigh to what extent acceptance would be interpreted with mistrust in the West.

If they wished to accept, one possible compromise in line with Yugoslav policy hitherto would be to send a delegation in the name of the Socialist Alliance.

On the other hand Soviet leaders could argue they were receiving a delegation of Yugoslav Communists as most senior posts in the Socialist Alliance are held by "high Communist Party members"—Reuter.

Senator George Warns On Foreign Aid

Washington, Jan. 29.

Senator Walter George, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said today he had advised administration leaders to test the temper of the House before bringing their proposed long range foreign aid programme before the Senate.

Senator George (Democrat, Georgia) has announced his opposition to any long term overall commitments for future foreign economic spending.

With Senator William Knowland (Republican, California) taking the same attitude there were indications the administration would "try its luck" in the House first, observers said.

Secret Testimony

Senator Knowland has come out against economic aid for "neutral countries" and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will take a look at that aspect on Tuesday.

The group has called Mr. John Sherman Cooper, Ambassador to India, before it for secret testimony. Mr. Cooper is understood to be supporting an increase in aid to India, which Senator Knowland has singled out for criticism in the past.

The committee also plans to look further into proposals for American participation in financing the proposed Aswan Dam in Egypt.

Raised Questions

The Under-Secretary of State, Mr. Herbert Hoover, is reported to have told the Senate Appropriations Committee last week that a proposed initial \$5 million dollar US contribution may be taken from area development funds already appropriated for the International Co-operation Administration (ICA).

This has raised questions in some Senators' minds whether the ICA is going ahead with commitments which would involve other American expenditures over the 10-year period expected to be required for construction of the dam.—Reuter.

Fortune If Niece Moves To America

Doylstown, Pa., Jan. 29.

H. Russell Pickering retired oil company executive, who willed most of his wealth to his Irish niece provided she moves permanently to this country, left an estate totalling \$8,304,893, record showed on Saturday.

The estate, largest ever filed in Bucks County, included \$442,390 in a bank account, \$3,010,000 in Standard Oil of New Jersey stock, and \$1,440,019 in Standard Oil of California stock.

Pickering stipulated in his will that his niece, Anna Winifred Beatrice Lockhart, a housewife in Glenside, County Wick, Ireland, could claim the estate if she agreed to live permanently in his home in nearby Newtown and spend \$200,000 for a rest home for aged people.

His niece said she would come here to help administer the estate and then decide whether to remain here.

WORLD WAR II BATTLE HONOURS

London, Jan. 29.

FAMOUS regiments which won fame at Waterloo, the Crimea and the Somme may soon be able to add the names of Second World War engagements to their battle honours.

The War Office has announced that nearly 1,000 battle honours charting the deeds and victories of British and Commonwealth troops in the last war have been officially created by a committee of 40 British and Commonwealth generals, brigadiers and colonels.

The list will be available to regiments which can present their claims for battle honours to the War Office. If granted the honours can be emblazoned on their banners.

Active Part

"There will be no question of an honour being awarded merely because a unit was present at a battle. It must have taken an active and creditable part in it."

The defence of Tobruk, the retreat to Dunkirk, the battle of El Alamein and the Allied landing on the Normandy beaches were among the engagements listed by the Committee, which has been tabulating them since May 1945.

Operations in Norway and Abyssinia in 1940-41, Syria, Iraq, Italy, Sicily, Malaya and Burma also appear in the list.

But it is not yet complete. The Committee is still at work officially naming battles in the Pacific campaigns that primarily affect New Zealand and the Australian regiments.

When they are finished about 1,100 battle honours will have been created.

The War Office said the list covered all the operations of all armies of the Commonwealth and that about one-third did not involve any British troops.—China Mail Special.

Plan To Rally Nazis And Fascists To Poujade's Banner

Rome, Jan. 29.

A former Italian-Fascist leader today announced plans for an international meeting in Paris that would rally former Nazis and Fascists to the banner of Pierre Poujade, French anti-tax campaigner.

Vittorio Ambrosini, president of the newly-created Italian Poujadist section, said he and his two chief lieutenants hoped to see the German ex-Nazi and "Black Front" leader, Otto Strasser, at the Paris strategy sessions. Other Poujade sympathisers from Germany and Switzerland would also attend.

Signor Ambrosini, personal friend of the Nazi propaganda chief, Josef Goebbels, said he would leave for Paris "in about a week." He said he would not give specific details about the talks.

Disappointed

The Poujadist section was established only a few weeks ago. Unlike the movement headed by the Milan fish salesman, Raffaele Garbin, it is openly Poujadist.

Political observers reported that many neo-Fascists, disappointed at the lack of responses among the people, are carefully watching M. Poujade, who has proven his vote-getting ability. The neo-Fascist newspaper, Il Secolo d'Italia, has warmly praised M. Poujade.

Signor Ambrosini, who wears a flowing black four-in-hand tie and a grey-green military shirt as his "uniform," said he hoped to revive Mussolini's social ideas even though he himself was gaoled five years by the Duce.

"I was one of Mussolini's first followers," said the 63-year-old, silver-haired lawyer. "But I quit him when Fascism degenerated into dictatorship."

Keep Peace

Luigi Palmieri, vice-president of the Italian Poujadists, said the group favoured making Europe and the Middle East a "third force" between capitalism and communism.

"The middle class states should unite," he said. "This third force would help keep peace in the world."

Signor Ambrosini said his movement was aimed at securing peace between the social classes. But he was not certain how this could be accomplished.

Signor Palmieri said representations of labour and management might sit in Parliament, as they did under Mussolini.

Signor Ambrosini, one of the founders of the neo-Fascist Italian Social Movement (MSI), said he filed charges of murder in 1946 against the man who killed Mussolini. The charges were dismissed.

Too Young

Signor Palmieri, now 41, told United Press he was "too young" to be involved in politics under Mussolini, but after the war he joined the MSI and

FAME FOR UGLIEST DOG IN ROME

Rome, Jan. 29.

For one glorious afternoon, Tombolino, a mongrel of very mixed breed, was patted and cuddled by perfumed and elegant ladies. It was fame at last for Tombolino, chosen as "The Ugliest Dog in Rome."

The judges had not been quite fair. There were more eligible candidates for the title in the Ugly Dog Show, but nobody protested.

Tombolino's owner is an 83-year-old woman who shuffles about Rome begging for scraps for her dog and six cats and a loaf or two for herself.

And the 50,000 lire (220) which went with the title would feed and warm Tombolino, the beggar and the six cats for many a long winter day.—China Mail Special.

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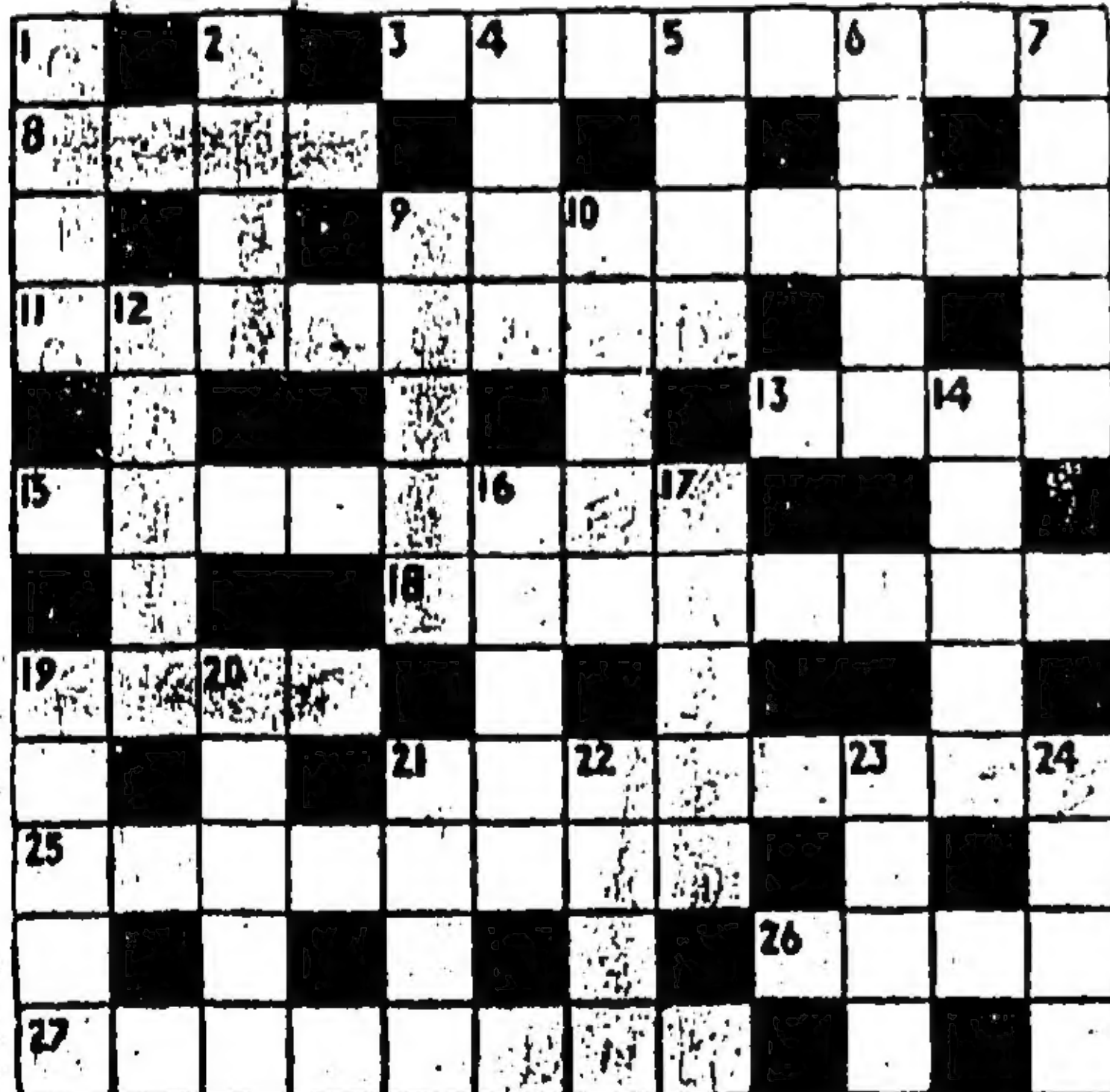
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A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 3 Sunshade (8).
- 8 Arrest (4).
- 9 "Chick the eud" (8).
- 11 Aze (8).
- 13 Nuisance (4).
- 15 Got the better of (8).
- 18 Kind of furniture (8).
- 19 Sensed (4).
- 21 Went aboard (8).
- 25 Buried (8).
- 26 Drudge (4).
- 27 Negotiating (8).

DOWN

- 1 Smart (4).
- 2 Scheme (4).
- 4 Wild plant (4).
- 5 Greedy (4).
- 6 Egg shaped (8).
- 7 Asoma (8).
- 9 Reigns (8).
- 10 Confused fight (8).
- 12 Speak (8).
- 14 Push (8).
- 16 Four-sided figure (8).
- 17 Fear (8).
- 19 Swift (8).
- 20 Lissom (8).
- 21 Badly (4).
- 22 Vegetable (4).
- 23 Eager (4).
- 24 Dextrous (4).

SATURDAY'S CROSSWORD: Across: 1. Staffs, 4. Sacks, 7. Aperture, 8. Eaten, 9. Permit, 11. Emerald, 13. Intrude, 15. Needle, 18. Drill, 19. Bordered, 20. Dances, 21. Gentle, 22. Downy, 1. Sharp, 3. Permit, 5. Stopped, 6. Shove, 8. Contract, 9. Blinded, 10. Battered, 12. Mending, 13. Lined, 14. Utters, 15. Speed, 17. About.

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